

## Dignity Young Adult Caucus Retreat

July 13 – 15, 2018

Jubilee Discussions — Taking Stock of Today & Visioning Our Future

### DIGNITYUSA TODAY:

*How do you see DignityUSA living out its mission and is impacting your life and experience of Church?*

- We are a comfortable space for worship
- We embrace a more open ideology
- Continuing involvement of social justice issues
- Making a welcoming statement to all faith communities
- Helping all people participate fully within services and activities
- Community worship together
- Amplified voice
- Resources: books, other organizations with similar values
- We are Church to one another; rooted in Catholic tradition; social justice work
- Introduction to intersection of spirituality and sexuality
- Active place/forum to challenge status quo
- A place LGBTQ people can bring their connection to faith
- Safe space for LGBTQ people

*What are DignityUSA's strengths and challenges?*

Strengths:

- Prophetic voice
- Our deep & rich history
- Welcoming diversity in all forms
- Our Conferences
- Our Activism
- Long history weathering storms and responding to challenges
- Strong, persistent community;
- Dignity is recognizable and known
- Conferences, retreats and gatherings
- Organized, legacy/history, positivity, advocacy, community, energetic
- Leadership open to change and conversation
- Changing the definition of the role of priests
- Creating space for young adult voices
- Safe havens to be respected
- Early on, a place where lay people have a voice to lead and change; improved image and visibility with Catholics and community
- Financial

- Leadership development of young people (strength and challenge)

Challenges:

- Reaching out to new members of all ages, cities, etc.
- Resources to help all understand the ritual and tradition of the liturgy
- Understand how to properly interact within diversity; pronouns; increased diversity
- Tension between generations of the
- Stigma from the Church and its hierarchy
- Lack of allies and safe space for some LGBTQ
- Lack of diversity; age, sex, race
- Not a place for young families and our people with kids
- Rise of secularism; lots of competing religious organizations
- Not great at communicating our unique mission and strengths
- Rocky relationship with bureaucracy
- Scandals of the church
- Rise in anti/non-religious sentiments among society
- Lack of agility
- Succession planning
- Engagement of youth
- Recruiting
- Aging
- Constituency is not consistent with overall messaging/ministry of Dignity
- Class, race, gender?; when will we talk about these intersections?
- Including all different types of people (very white cis male centered)
- Marginalized voices having a seat and voice at the table
- Language used is behind the times and very binary